8. A New Liver-Fluke (*Platynosomum acuminatum*) from the Kestrel. By William Nicoll, M.A., D.Sc., M.D., F.Z.S.

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(Text-figure 1.)

Index.

In January 1912 I received from Mr. J. S. Dunkerley, of the Zoological Department, Glasgow University, a single fluke from the liver of a kestrel (*Cerchneis tinnunculus*), shot on the west coast of Scotland. It appears to represent a new species of the genus *Platynosomum* Looss, and for it I propose the name *Platynosomum acuminatum*.

In a note accompanying the specimen Mr. Dunkerley observed and that the parasite was found in the gut, but there can be little question that it must have wandered there from the liver.

The specimen when received had been stained and mounted, was somewhat twisted in the course of preparation. Its total length is 6·3 mm., and its maximum breadth, just behind the ventral sucker, is 1·5 mm. The body is broadest at its middle part, and both the head and tail ends are markedly attenuated.

The oral sucker, which is twisted to the right, is rather deep and measures ·45 × ·40 mm. The globular ventral sucker measures ·6 × ·75 mm. and is situated 1·97 mm. from the anterior end. The pharynx is contiguous with the oral sucker and measures ·17 × ·15 mm. There is a short œsophagus, ·25 mm. in length, and the intestinal diverticula are long and narrow, their ends being lost in the folds of the uterus.

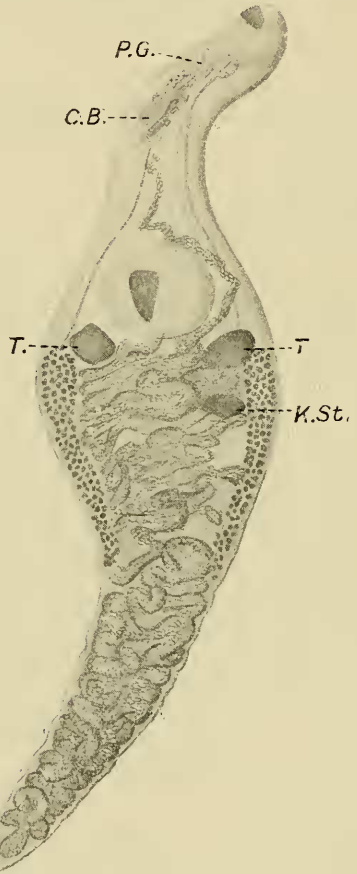
The genital aperture lies over the pharynx, and, like the oral sucker, is twisted to the right. The cirrus-pouch is comparatively large, measuring ·7 × ·16 mm. It contains a thin convoluted vesicula seminalis, a pars prostatica of medium length, and a rather longer ductus. The cirrus was slightly extruded.

The testes lie symmetrically, immediately behind the ventral sucker and separated from each other by nearly half the width of the body. They are oblong-oval in outline with their long axes obliquely transverse. They measure about ·25 × ·36 mm.

A short distance behind the left testis lies the transversely oval ovary, which is somewhat smaller than either of the testes. The

yolk-glands are entirely lateral, forming rather a broad band on each side from the level of the testes to about 2·3 mm. from the posterior end of the body. They thus extend over a space equal to about one-quarter of the body-length. The follicles are rather small.

Text-figure 1.



Platynosomum acuminatum, sp. n. Ventral view. × 20.

C.B. Cirrus-pouch. P.G. Genital aperture. K.St. Ovary. T. Testes.

The uterus fills up the greater part of the postacetabular space. Towards the posterior end it tends to form small semicircular loops, but further forward the convolutions become more decidedly transverse, without, however, ever actually traversing the whole space between the intestinal diverticula. The convolutions are

confined entirely behind the ventral sucker, and the terminal part of the uterus passes forwards as a single narrow tube, slightly twisted but unconvoluted. The vagina appears to be only weakly developed. The numerous eggs measure ·033–·039 × ·018–·020 mm.

Amongst the many species of *Platynosomum* this new form bears the closest resemblance to *P. deflectens* (Rud., Braun, 1902) and *P. petiolatum* (Raill., Braun, 1902). From both it differs only in minor details. *P. deflectens* is a considerably smaller species with relatively larger suckers. An œsophagus is almost absent, while the cirrus-pouch is short and plump. The testes are globular and more closely apposed. *P. petiolatum* is a larger species with a shorter neck. The œsophagus is extremely short, and the cirrus-pouch extends past the anterior border of the ventral sucker. The yolk-glands, again, are somewhat more extensive but sparser, while the uterus is not so voluminous. Apart from these anatomical details, the difference in host indicates that the present species is distinct from either of the above mentioned forms.

I have to thank Mr. Dunkerley for his courtesy in submitting the specimen for examination.

Reference.

Braun, M. "Die Fascioliden der Vögel," Zool. Jahrb., Syst. Abt. xvi., 1902.